**Assessment and accreditation by NAAC**

1377. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether accreditation of institutes of higher learning, including Universities, by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) is proposed to be made mandatory;

(b) if so, the details with number of such institutes/Universities already accredited, State-wise;

(c) whether fixation of fees by the concerned institutes for various courses would be one of the criteria for assessment;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether deemed universities conducting professional courses in medicine and engineering would also be brought under the scope of NAAC accreditation; and

(f) if so, the details with response of all stake holders to the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (f) The existing framework of assessment and accreditation by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) is presently under review of the University Grants Commission and the Government of India. So far, the NAAC has assessed and accredited 131 Universities and 3074 Colleges details with regard to which is available on the website *www.naacindia.org*.

**Central assistance to Punjab under Mid-day Meal Scheme**

1378. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the Central assistance given to the State of Punjab under the Midday Meal Scheme for school children during the last three years ending 31st March, 2007, year-wise;

(b) the share of the State Government on the scheme during the period, year-wise;